

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17450 172156Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 172103Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0923

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17450

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR

SUBJECT: JULY 8-9 FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT: SECURITY SUBJECTS

REF: PARIS 16953

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS FORECAST IN PARA 2E OF REFTEL, WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH OUR FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY SOURCE CONCERNING SECURITY-RELATED SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY FRENCH AND GERMANS IN COURSE OF JULY 8-9 FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT. WE WERE TOLD THAT GERMANS PRESSED TWO SUBJECTS WITH FRENCH: FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH FORCES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF PLUTON. THE GERMANS ALSO RAISED AT THE STAFF LEVEL THE SUBJECT OF FRENCH ASSOCIATION WITH THE EUROGROUP. THE FRENCH EMPHASIZED WITH THE GERMANS THEIR INTEREST IN CLOSER ARMAMENT COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FORWARD DEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH FORCES: GERMANS PRESSED FRENCH TO AGREE TO DEPLOY TWO FRENCH DIVISIONS NOW LOCATED IN GERMANY FURTHER FORWARD TO THE EAST IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE AUSTRIAN/CZECH BORDER. OUR SOURCE WAS NOT SPECIFIC WHETHER THIS REFERRED TO CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR POSSIBLE EMPLOYMENT OF FRENCH FORCES IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY (WHICH WE SUSPECT WAS THE CASE),
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OR A PEACE-TIME RE-LOCATION OF FRENCH FORCES TOWARD THE

EAST. NOR DID OUR SOURCE ELABORATE WHETHER DISCUSSION ALSO TOUCHED ON POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT TO GERMANY OF THREE FRENCH DIVISIONS STATIONED IN EASTERN FRANCE. HE COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE A CHANGE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH FORCES 50 OR 100 KILOMETERS TO EAST WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN ANY LIKELY MILITARY SCENARIO.

3. PLUTON: ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, GERMANS PRESSED FRENCH TO ACCEPT GUIDELINES FOR USE OF FRENCH TACTICAL NUCLEAR MISSILE PLUTON ALONG THE LINES OF THE ARRANGEMENTS CURRENTLY GOVERNING USE OF US AND UK TAC NUKES IN GERMANY. EMBASSY COMMENT: IF GERMANS RAISED "GUIDELINES" PROBLEM WITH FRENCH, WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THEM TO INCLUDE TAC NUKES CARRIED BY FRENCH MIRAGE III AND JAGUAR AIRCRAFT, RATHER THAN LIMITING DISCUSSION TO ARMY PLUTON. END COMMENT. REGARDING STATIONING OF PLUTON ON GERMAN SOIL, OUR SOURCE SAID THE GERMANS SEEMED UNSURE WHETHER THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE PLUTON STATIONED ONLY IN FRANCE (IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT FRENCH PLANS), OR IN GERMANY (WHICH WOULD RAISE SENSITIVE ISSUES OF COMMAND-AND-CONTROL AND CONSULTATION BUT MIGHT MOVE PLUTON TARGETING FURTHER TO THE EAST, PERHAPS BEYOND FRG TERRITORY).

4. EUROGROUP: OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE SUBJECT OF EUROGROUP WAS NOT RAISED DIRECTLY WITH FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER SOUFFLET, BUT WAS BROUGHT UP BY GERMANS AT STAFF LEVEL IN TERMS OF SEEKING FRENCH ASSOCIATION WITH EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES. OUR SOURCE COMMENTED THAT HE ANTICIPATED NO MOVEMENT BY GOF TOWARD EUROGROUP. HE VOLUNTEERED, HOWEVER, THAT PRESSURE WITHIN FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY AND WITHIN FRENCH MILITARY CIRCLES FOR FRENCH MOVEMENT TOWARD EUROGROUP WAS "SURPRISINGLY" STRONG BUT, IN HIS WORDS, "DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE REALITIES OF QUAI AND ELYSEE POLICY."

5. ARMAMENT COOPERATION: THE FRENCH MADE EFFORT TO CONVINCE GERMANS TO MOVE TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION IN AREAS OF MANUFACTURE AND PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY ARMS. CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR SOURCE WAS SILENT ON GERMAN REACTION TO THESE OVER-
TURES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, SUMMIT MEETINGS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, MISSILE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS17450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740192-0952
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740741/aaaabjed.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: PARIS 16953
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 8-9 FRANCO-GERMAN SUMMIT: SECURITY SUBJECTS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005